



State of Wyoming Military Department Office of the Adjutant General

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Wyoming Air National Guard MAFFS units remain in Idaho

CHEYENNE – The Wyoming Air National Guard currently has approximately 31 personnel and two C-130s equipped with the Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System deployed to Idaho fighting regional wild fires. They have been on site since July 21.

The C-130s' crews operate from the National Interagency Firefighting Center in Boise, Idaho, while deployed. The U.S. Forest Service directs the operation of the crews.

The aircraft are flying sorties in a variety of states including Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah and Washington.

A total of 332 sorties have been flown by the Wyoming, North Carolina and Colorado units as of Sept. 6 and 879,033 gallons of slurry have been used.

Lt. Col. Michael Exstrom, 153rd Operations Group MAFFS coordinator, said the crews have been doing an exceptional job. "The National Guard is increasingly involved in all aspects of the missions. They continue to prove they are among the best the Air National Guard has to offer."

NIFC activates the National Guard and Reserve MAFFS units when other fire fighting resources are exhausted.

The Wyoming Air National Guard is one of four National Guard and Reserve units in the country trained to operate the MAFFS units. Each MAFFS unit can drop 3,000 gallons of fire retardant in 8 – 10 seconds.

Exstrom said the Wyoming Air National Guard has performed its MAFFS mission for more than 30 years. Last year the unit was activated once, in July, to fight fires in Arizona.